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Sugiyama

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(54) **PROJECTOR INCLUDING COOLING TARGET**

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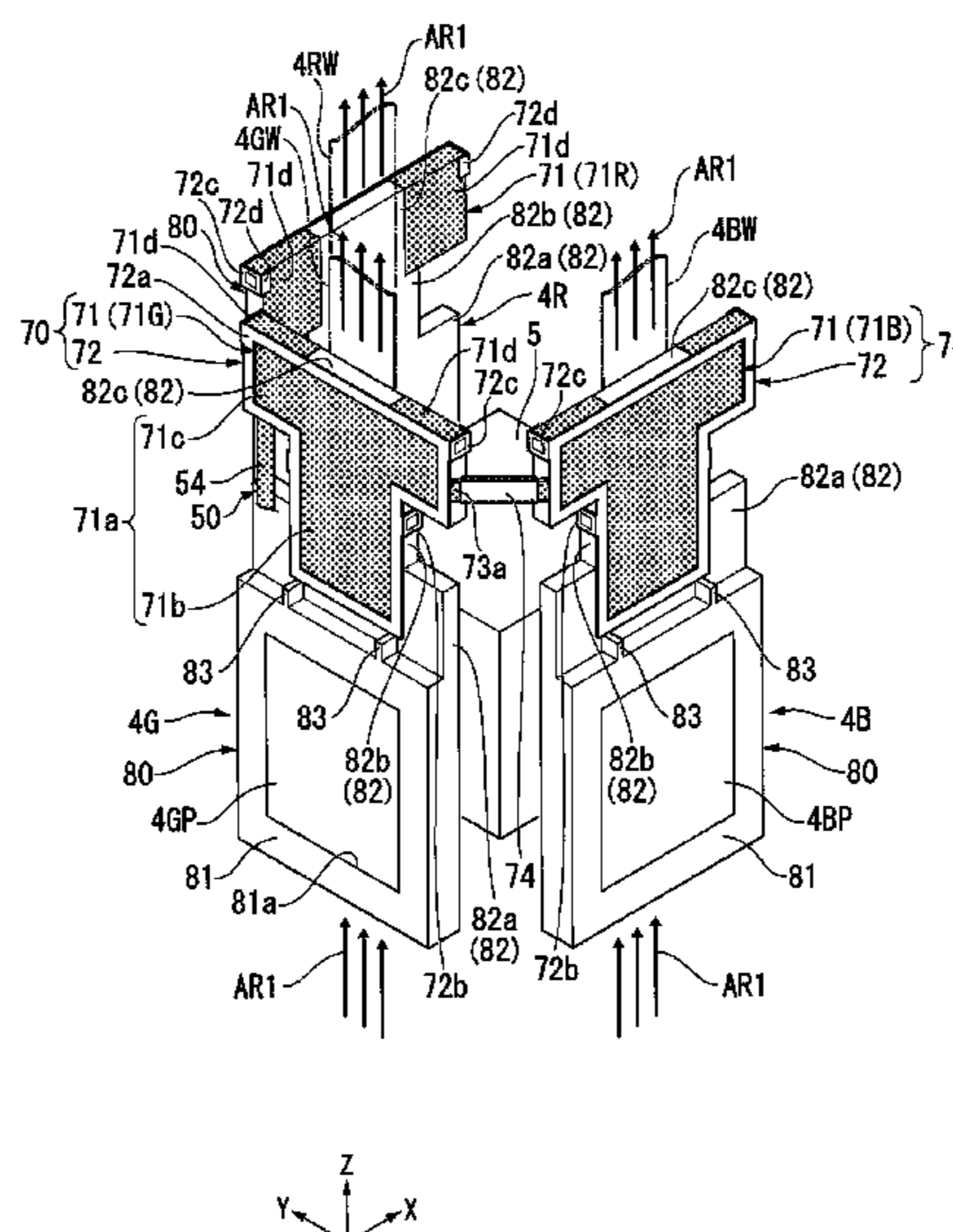
U.S. Appl. No. 16/898,598, filed Jun. 11, 2020 in the name of Sugiyama.
Sep. 30, 2021 Office Action Issued In U.S. Appl. No. 16/898,598.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A projector including a cooling target includes a light source, a light modulator, a projection optical apparatus, and a cooler configured to cool the cooling target based on transformation of a refrigerant into a gas. The cooler includes a refrigerant generator configured to generate the refrigerant, a refrigerant sender configured to send the generated refrigerant toward the cooling target, and a cooling air blower configured to deliver air to the cooling target. The cooling target includes a cooling target main body and a cooled part which is thermally coupled to the cooling target main body and to which the refrigerant is sent from the refrigerant sender. The cooled part is disposed on a downstream of the cooling target main body in the flowing direction of the air delivered from the cooling air blower to the cooling target.

9 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

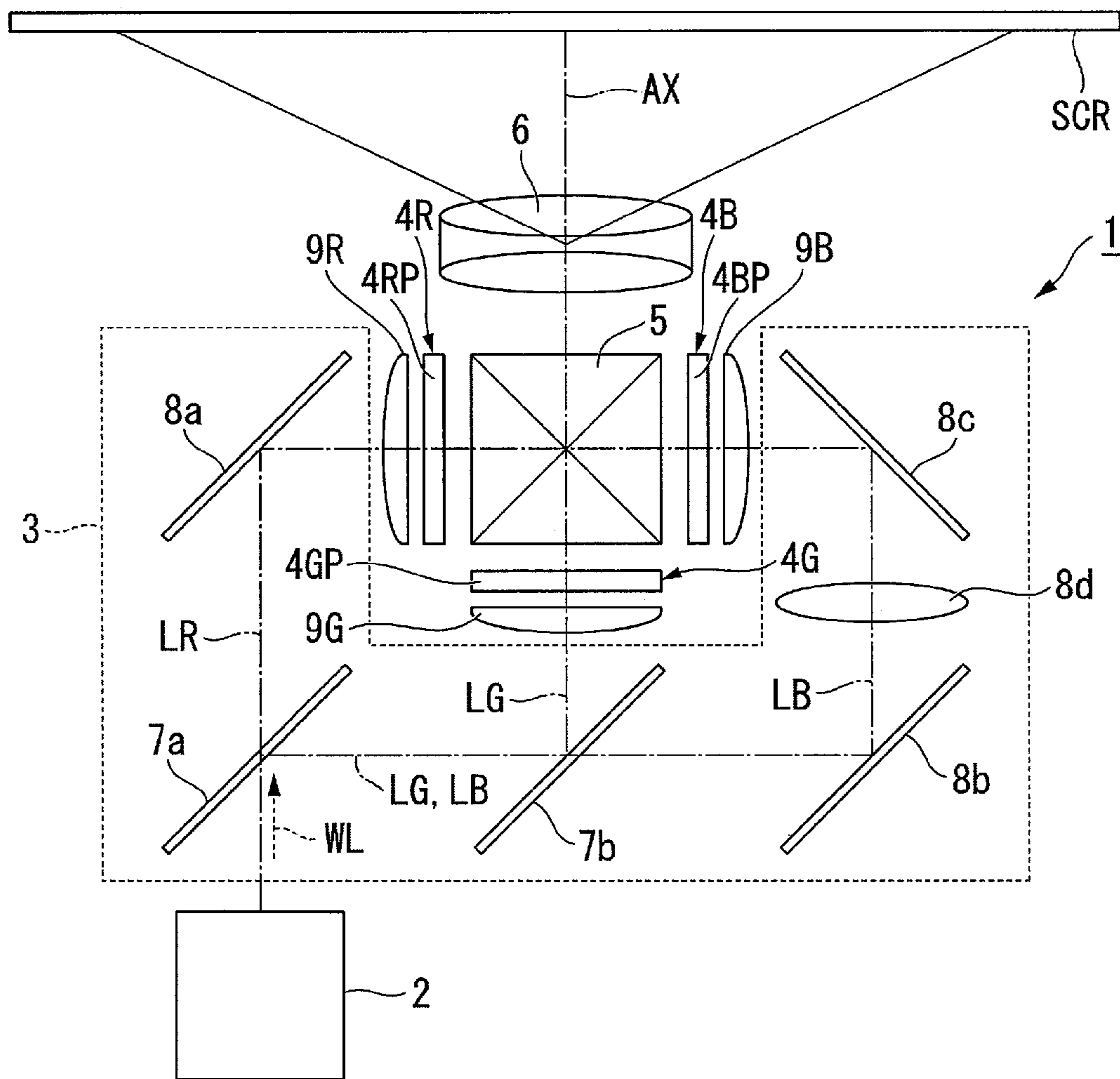


FIG. 2

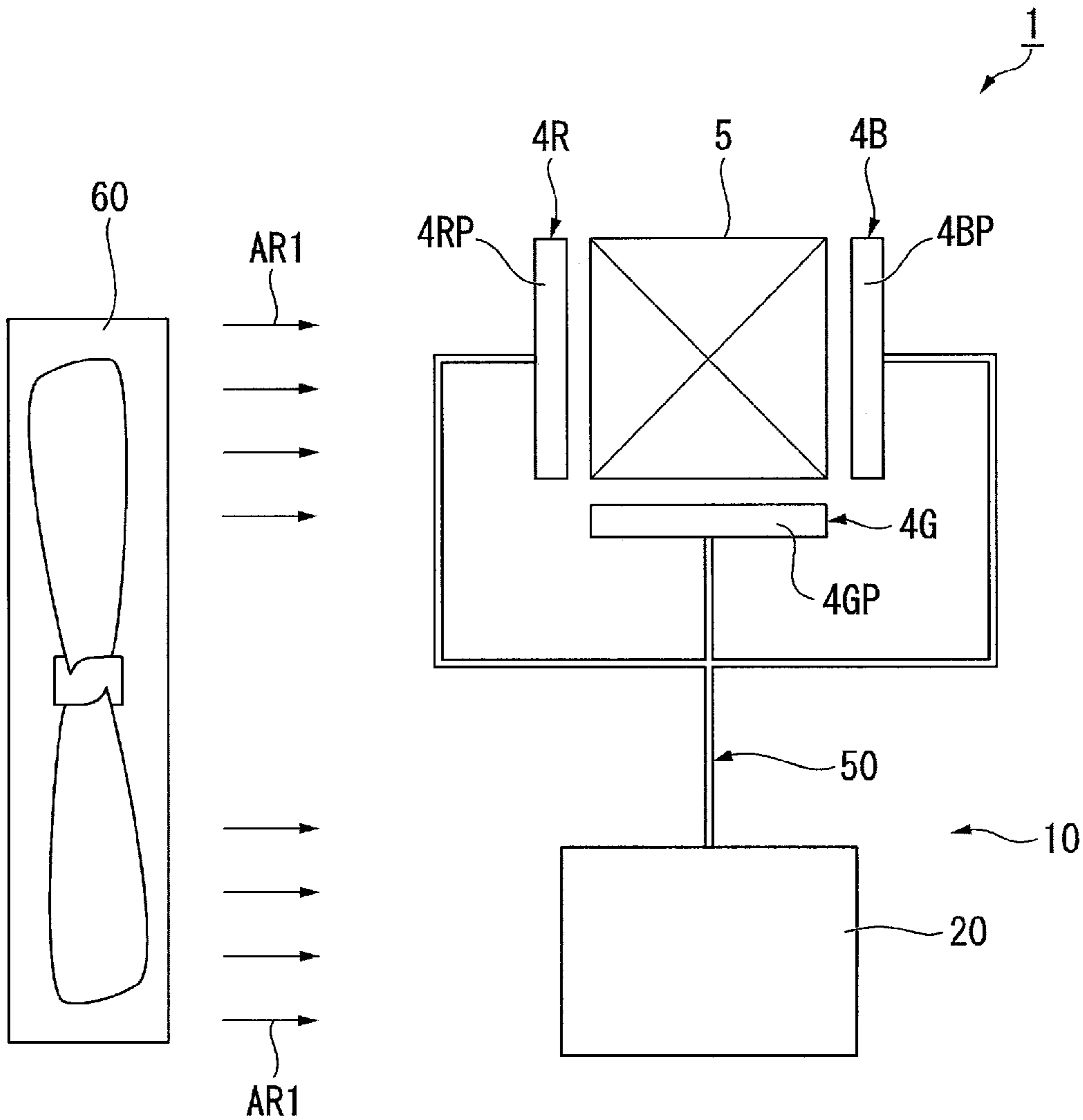


FIG. 3

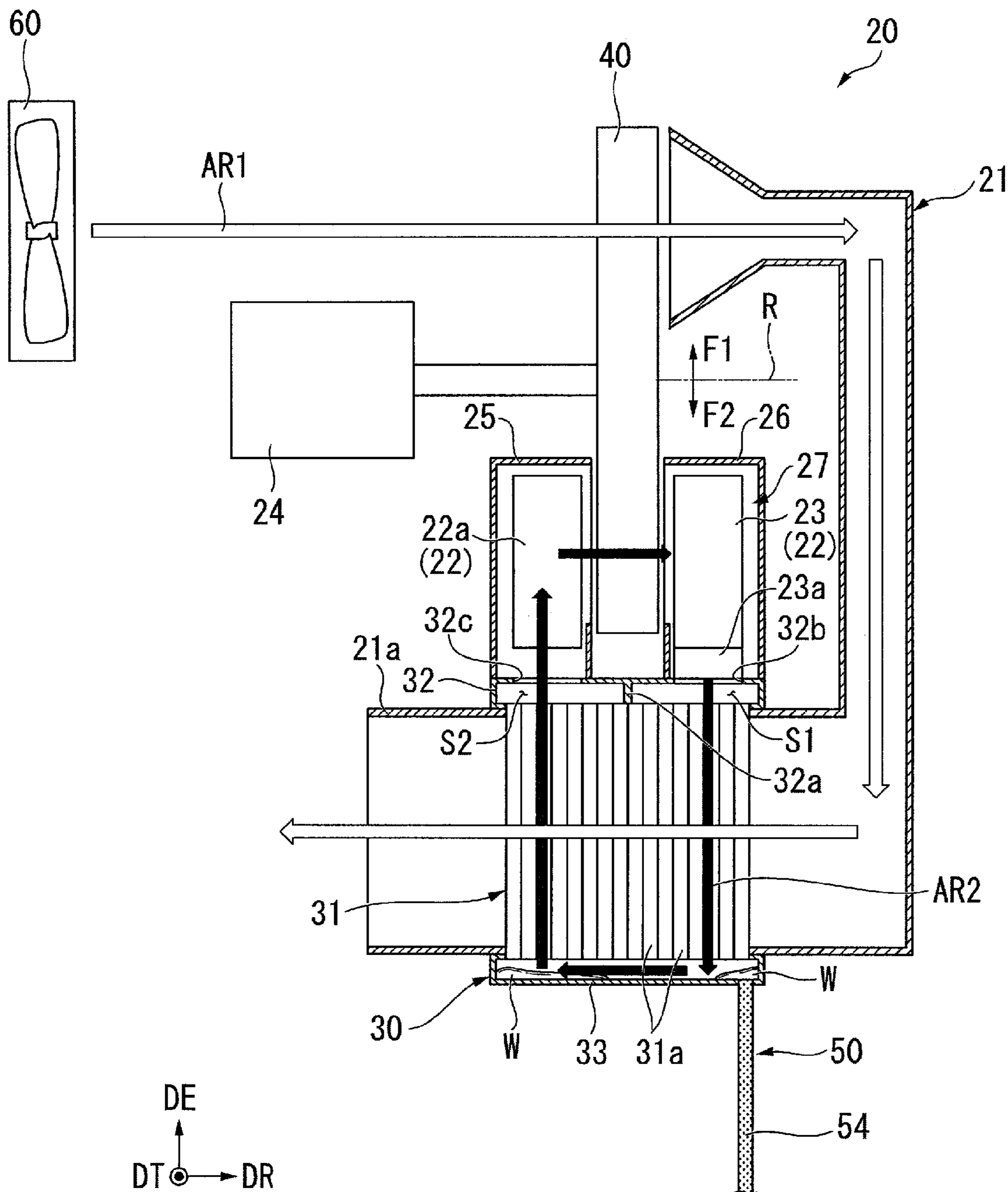


FIG. 4

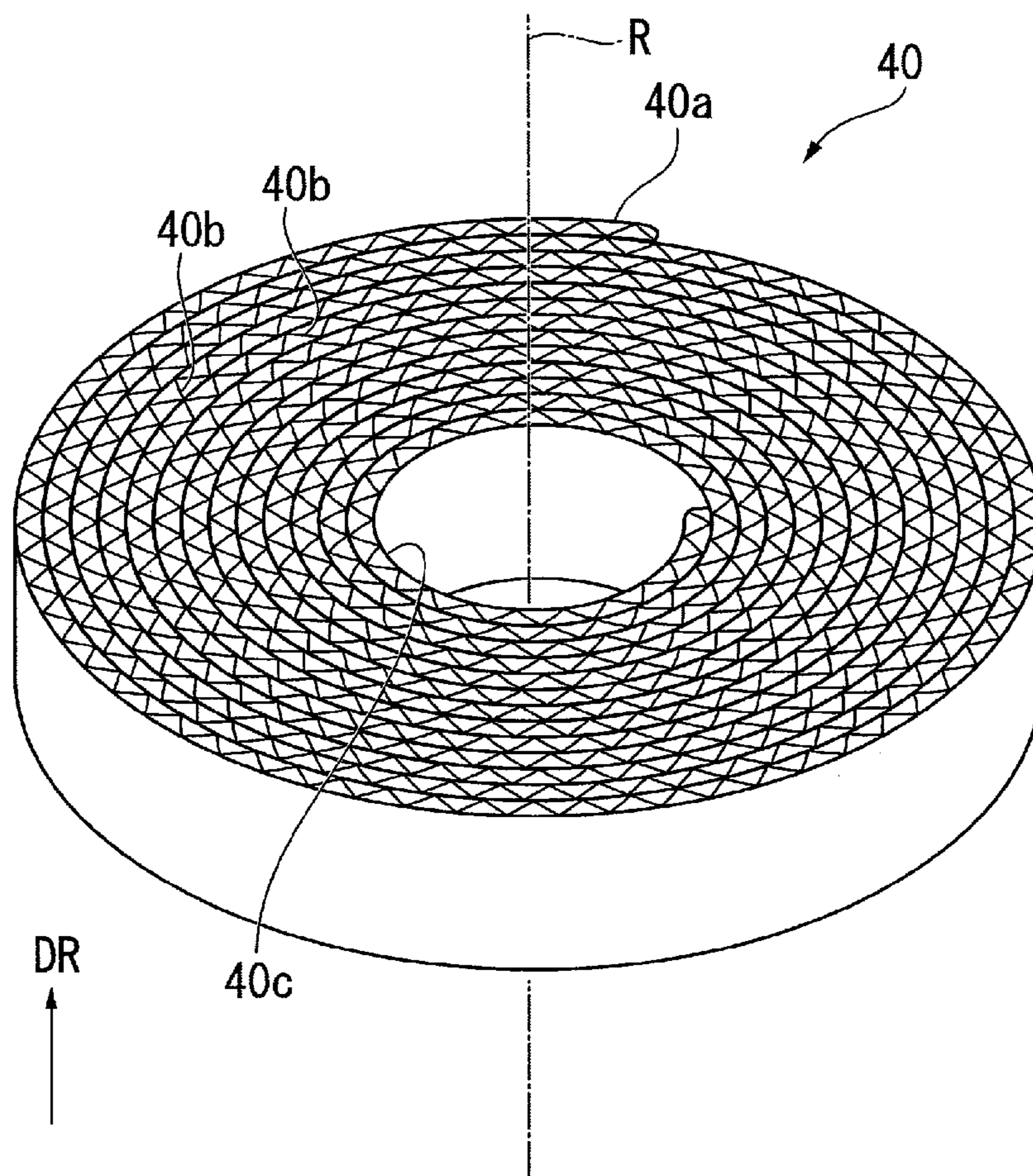


FIG. 5

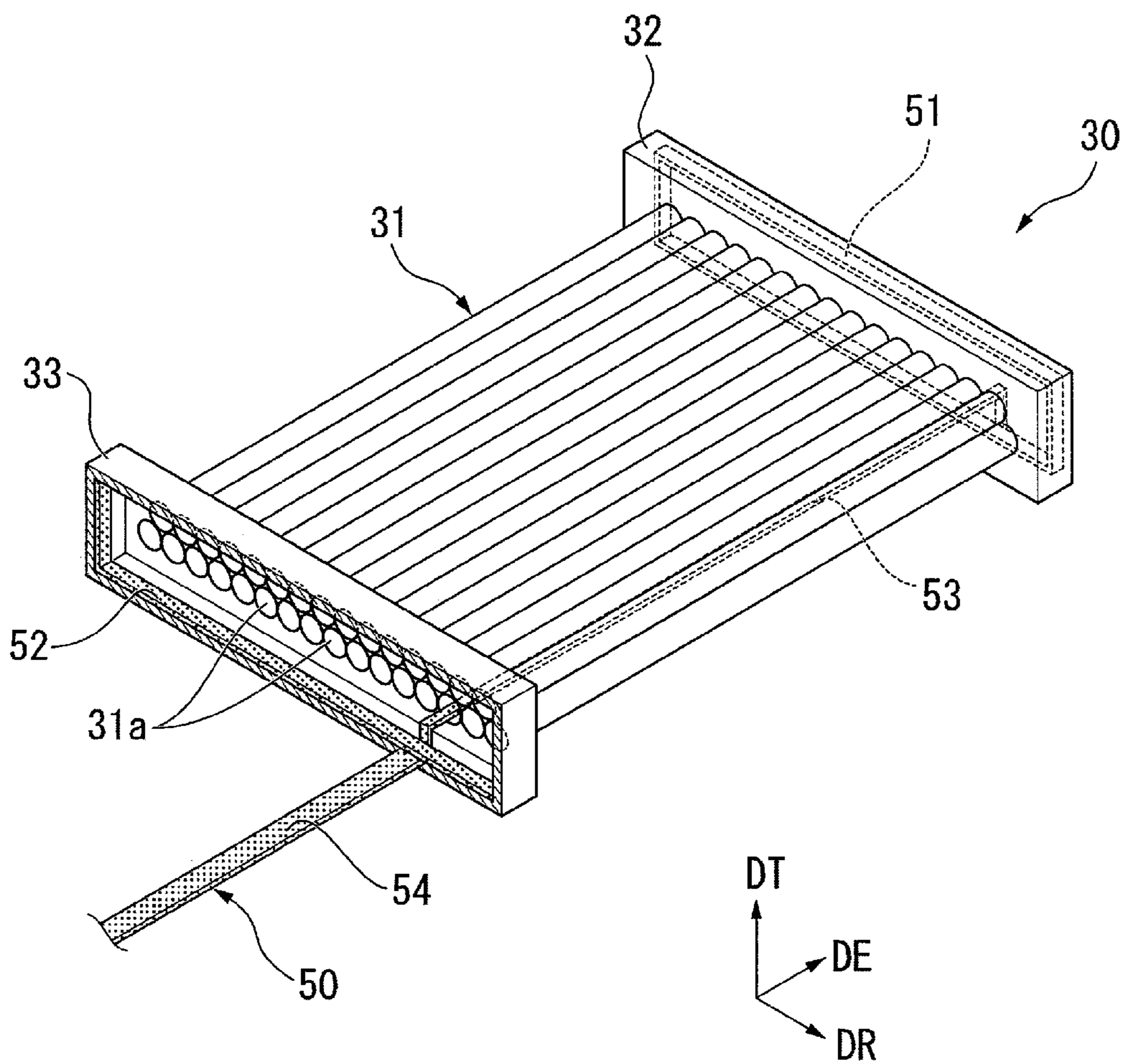


FIG. 6

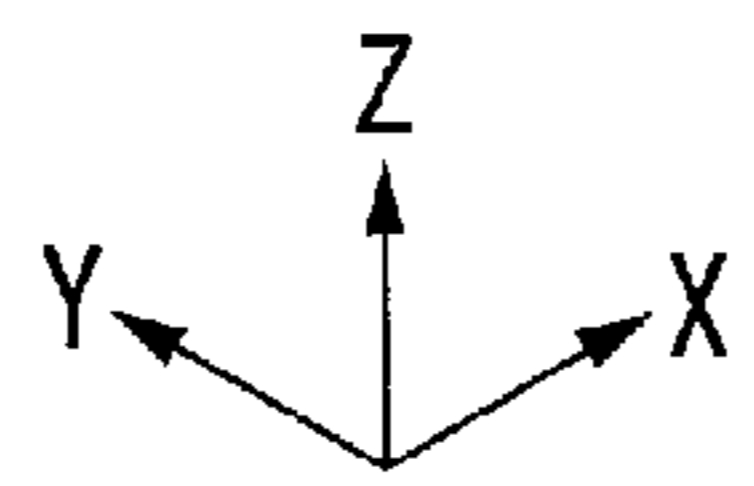
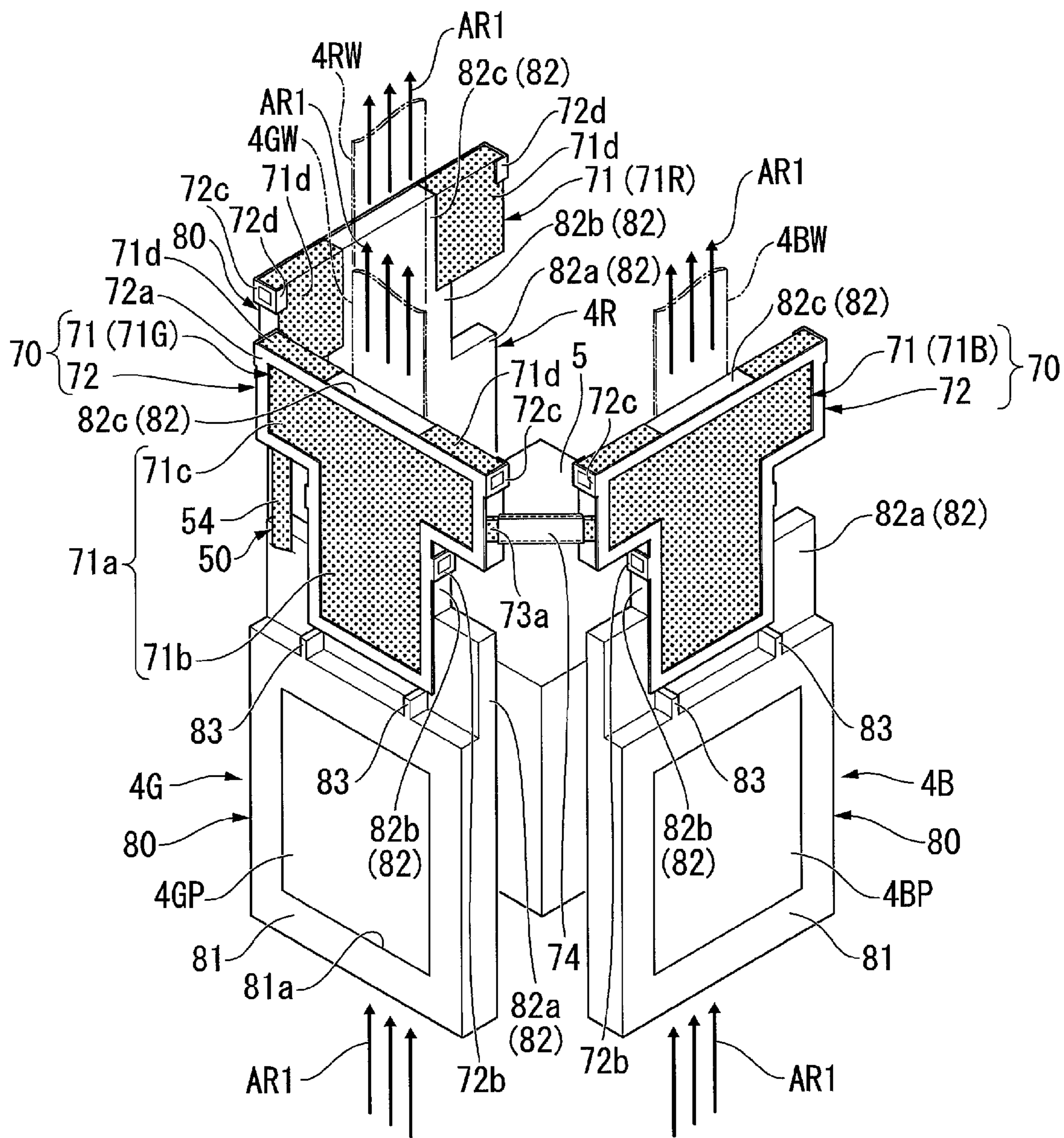
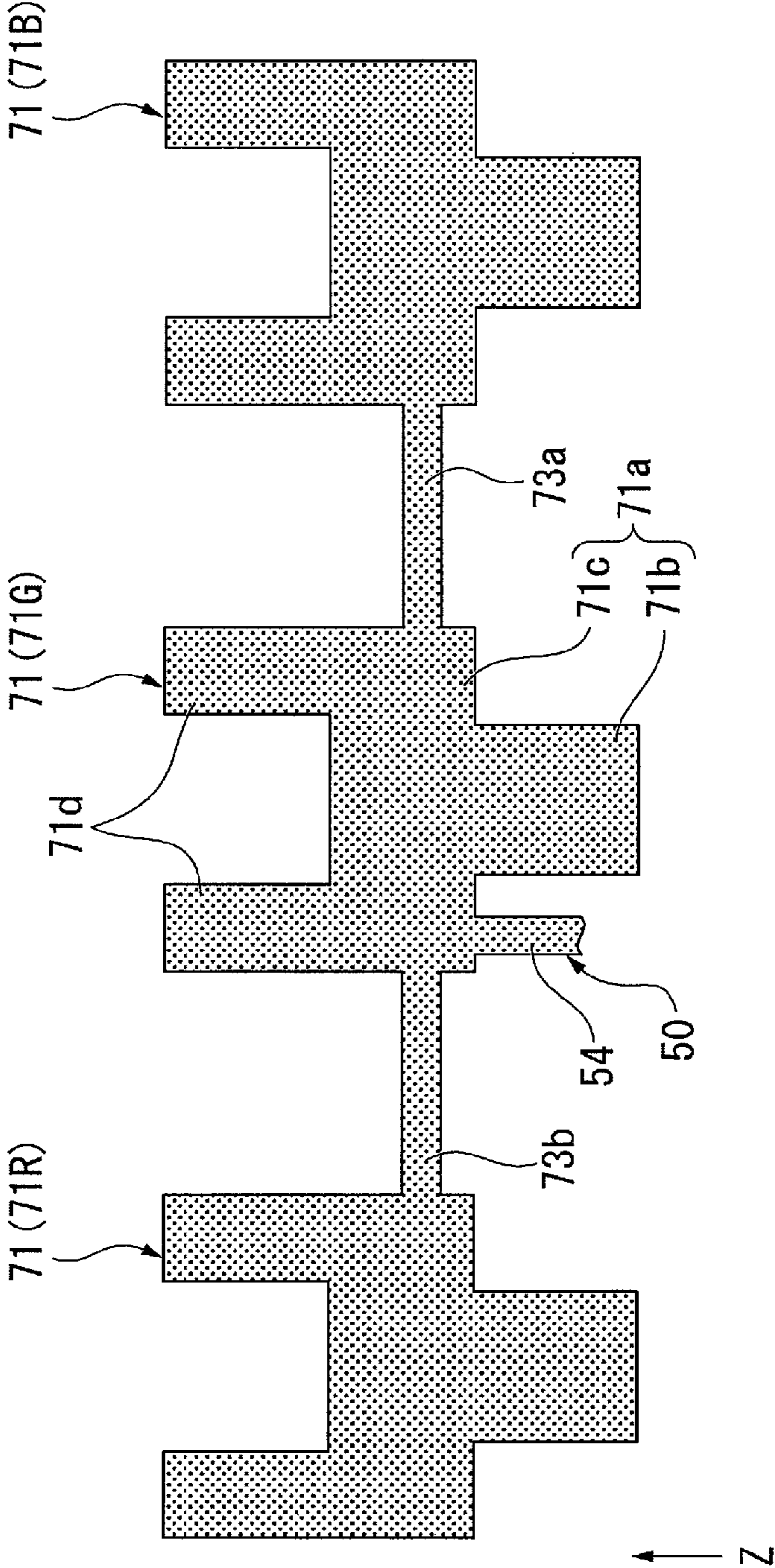


FIG. 7



1**PROJECTOR INCLUDING COOLING
TARGET**

The present application is based on, and claims priority from JP Application Serial Number 2019-105946, filed Jun. 6, 2019, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND**1. Technical Field**

The present disclosure relates to a projector.

2. Related Art

As a unit that cools a projector, there have been proposed cooling units, for example, an air-based cooling unit shown in JP-A-2002-107698 using an air blower and a liquid-based cooling unit shown in JP-A-2007-294655 using a pump that delivers a refrigerant liquid and a pipe through which the refrigerant liquid passes.

In recent years, an increase in luminance of light outputted from a projector and other factors increase the amount of heat generated by a cooling target to be cooled by a cooling unit, and the cooling performance of the cooling unit is required to be improved. To improve the cooling performance of the cooling unit described above based, for example, on air or liquid, however, there are problems of an increase in the size of the cooling unit and in turn an increase in the size of the projector. Further, in the case of the air-based cooling, there is also a problem of an increase in noise produced by the air blower.

SUMMARY

An aspect of a projector according to the present disclosure is directed to a projector including a cooling target, the projector including a light source configured to emit light, a light modulator configured to modulate the light emitted from the light source in accordance with an image signal, a projection optical apparatus configured to project the light modulated by the light modulator, and a cooler configured to cool the cooling target based on transformation of a refrigerant into a gas. The cooler includes a refrigerant generator configured to generate the refrigerant, a refrigerant sender configured to send the generated refrigerant toward the cooling target, and a cooling air blower configured to deliver air to the cooling target. The cooling target includes a cooling target main body and a cooled part which is thermally coupled to the cooling target main body and to which the refrigerant is sent from the refrigerant sender. The cooled part is disposed on a downstream of the cooling target main body in a flowing direction of the air delivered from the cooling air blower to the cooling target.

The projector may further include a light modulation unit including the light modulator and a holding frame holding the light modulator. The holding frame may include a frame main body holding the light modulator and an extending part extending from the frame main body. The light modulation unit may be the cooling target. The light modulator may be the cooling target main body. The extending part may be the cooled part.

The holding frame may be made of metal.

A material of the holding frame may contain aluminum.

A thermal conductivity of the holding frame may be higher than a thermal conductivity of the refrigerant sender.

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The cooled part may be disposed above the cooling target main body in a vertical direction.

The projector may further include a refrigerant holder holding the refrigerant, and the refrigerant holder may be provided at the cooled part.

The refrigerant holder may be attached to a surface of the cooled part and may be formed of a porous member, and at least part of the refrigerant holder may be exposed when viewed from a refrigerant holder side along a overlapping direction in which the refrigerant holder and the cooled part overlap.

The projector may further include a fixing member fixing the refrigerant holder. The fixing member may fix the refrigerant holder in such a way that the fixing member and the cooled part sandwich the refrigerant holder in the overlapping direction. At least part of the refrigerant holder may be exposed when viewed from a fixing member side along the overlapping direction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic configuration diagram showing a projector according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view showing part of the projector according to the present embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a schematic configuration diagram diagrammatically showing a refrigerant generator in the present embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing a moisture absorbing/discharging member in the present embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional perspective view showing a heat exchanger in the present embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing light modulation units and a light combining system in the present embodiment.

FIG. 7 shows refrigerant holders in the present embodiment.

**DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY
EMBODIMENTS**

A projector according to an embodiment of the present disclosure will be described below with reference to the drawings. The scope of the present disclosure is not limited to the following embodiment and can be arbitrarily changed within the scope of the technical idea of the present disclosure. In the following drawings, for clarity of each configuration, the scale, the number, and other factors of the structure of the configuration differ from the scale, the number, and the other factors of the actual structure of the configuration in some cases.

FIG. 1 is a schematic configuration diagram showing a projector 1 according to the present embodiment. FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic view showing part of the projector 1 according to the present embodiment. The projector 1 includes a light source apparatus 2, a color separation system 3, a light modulation unit 4R, a light modulation unit 4G, a light modulation unit 4B, a light combining system 5, and a projection optical apparatus 6, as shown in FIG. 1. The light modulation unit 4R includes a light modulator 4RP. The light modulation unit 4G includes a light modulator 4GP. The light modulation unit 4B includes a light modulator 4BP.

The light source apparatus 2 outputs illumination light WL, which is so adjusted to have a substantially uniform illuminance distribution, toward the color separation system

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3. The light source apparatus 2 includes, for example, a semiconductor laser as a light source. The color separation system 3 separates the illumination light WL from the light source apparatus 2 into red light LR, green light LG, and blue light LB. The color separation system 3 includes a first dichroic mirror 7a, a second dichroic mirror 7b, a first reflection mirror 8a, a second reflection mirror 8b, a third reflection mirror 8c, and a relay lens 8d.

The first dichroic mirror 7a separates the illumination light WL outputted from the light source apparatus 2 into the red light LR and light containing the green light LG and the blue light LB mixed with each other. The first dichroic mirror 7a is so characterized as to transmit the red light LR and reflect the green light LG and the blue light LB. The second dichroic mirror 7b separates the light containing the green light LG and the blue light LB mixed with each other into the green light LG and the blue light LB. The second dichroic mirror 7b is so characterized as to reflect the green light LG and transmit the blue light LB.

The first reflection mirror 8a is disposed in the optical path of the red light LR and reflects the red light LR having passed through the first dichroic mirror 7a toward the light modulator 4RP. The second reflection mirror 8b and the third reflection mirror 8c are disposed in the optical path of the blue light LB and guide the blue light LB having passed through the second dichroic mirror 7b to the light modulator 4BP.

The light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP are each formed of a liquid crystal panel. The light modulator 4RP modulates the red light LR out of the light outputted from the light source apparatus 2 in accordance with an image signal. The light modulator 4GP modulates the green light LG out of the light outputted from the light source apparatus 2 in accordance with an image signal. The light modulator 4BP modulates the blue light LB out of the light outputted from the light source apparatus 2 in accordance with an image signal. The light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP thus form image light fluxes corresponding to the respective color light fluxes. Although not shown, polarizers are disposed on the light incident side and the light exiting side of each of the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP.

A field lens 9R, which parallelizes the red light LR to be incident on the light modulator 4RP, is disposed on the light incident side of the light modulator 4RP. A field lens 9G, which parallelizes the green light LG to be incident on the light modulator 4GP, is disposed on the light incident side of the light modulator 4GP. A field lens 9B, which parallelizes the blue light LB to be incident on the light modulator 4BP, is disposed on the light incident side of the light modulator 4BP.

The light combining system 5 is formed of a cross dichroic prism having a substantially cubic shape. The light combining system 5 combines the color image light fluxes from the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP with one another. The light combining system 5 outputs the combined image light toward the projection optical apparatus 6. The projection optical apparatus 6 is formed of a projection lens group. The projection optical apparatus 6 enlarges the combined image light from the light combining system 5, that is, the light fluxes modulated by the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP and projects the enlarged image light, that is, the enlarged modulated light fluxes toward a screen SCR. An enlarged color image (video) is thus displayed on the screen SCR.

The projector 1 further includes a cooler 10, as shown in FIG. 2. The cooler 10, in which a refrigerant W is transformed into a gas, cools a cooling target provided in the

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projector 1. In the present embodiment, the refrigerant W is, for example, liquid water. In the following description, the transformation of the refrigerant W into a gas is therefore simply called vaporization in some cases. In the present embodiment, the cooling target includes the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B. That is, in the present embodiment, the cooling target includes the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP. In the present embodiment, the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP form a cooling target main body.

The cooler 10 includes a refrigerant generator 20 and a refrigerant sender 50. The refrigerant generator 20 is a portion that generates the refrigerant W. The refrigerant sender 50 is a portion that sends the generated refrigerant W toward the cooling target. The refrigerant W delivered by the refrigerant sender 50 to the cooling target, that is, the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B in the present embodiment vaporizes so as to be capable of drawing heat from the cooling target. The cooler 10 can thus cool the cooling target. The refrigerant generator 20 and the refrigerant sender 50 will be described below in detail.

FIG. 3 is a schematic configuration diagram diagrammatically showing the refrigerant generator 20 in the present embodiment. The refrigerant generator 20 includes a moisture absorbing/discharging member 40, a motor (driver) 24, a first air blower (cooling air blower) 60, a heat exchanger 30, a circulation duct 25, a circulation duct 26, a heater 22, a second air blower 23, and a cooling duct 21, as shown in FIG. 3.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view showing the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 has a flat cylindrical shape around an axis of rotation R, as shown in FIG. 4. A central hole 40c around the axis of rotation R is formed at the center of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40. The central hole 40c passes through the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 in the axial direction of the axis of rotation R. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 rotates around the axis of rotation R. In the following description, the axial direction of the axis of rotation R is called a "rotational axis direction DR" and drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis DR in the drawings.

The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 has an innumerable number of through holes 40b, which pass through the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 in the rotational axis direction DR. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 is a porous member. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 absorbs and discharges moisture. In the present embodiment, the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 is formed, for example, by winding a band-shaped member 40a having the through holes 40b around the axis of rotation R and applying a substance that absorbs and discharges moisture onto a surface of the wound band-shaped member 40a that is the surface exposed to the ambient environment. A surface of the wound band-shaped member 40a that is the surface exposed to the ambient environment includes the outer surface of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40, the inner circumferential surface of the central hole 40c, and the inner surface of each of the through holes 40b. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 may instead be entirely made of a substance that absorbs and discharges moisture. Examples of the substance that absorbs and discharges moisture may include zeolite and silica gel.

The output shaft of the motor 24 shown in FIG. 3 is inserted into the central hole 40c of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 and fixed thereto. The motor 24 rotates the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40

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around the axis of rotation R. The rotational speed of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 rotated by the motor 24 is, for example, approximately greater than or equal to 0.2 rpm but smaller than or equal to 5 rpm.

The first air blower 60 is, for example, an intake fan that takes outside air into the projector 1. The first air blower 60 delivers air AR1 to a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in a first region F1. The first region F1 is a region on one side of the axis of rotation R in the direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation R. On the other hand, the region on the other side of the axis of rotation R in the direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation R, that is, the region opposite the first region F1 with respect to the axis of rotation R is a second region F2. The first region F1 is a region above the axis of rotation R in FIG. 3. The second region F2 is a region below the axis of rotation R in FIG. 3.

The first air blower 60 delivers the air AR1 also to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target, as shown in FIG. 2. That is, in the present embodiment, the first air blower 60 is a cooling air blower that delivers the air AR1 to the cooling target. The first air blower 60 is not limited to a specific apparatus and may be any apparatus capable of delivering the air AR1, for example, an axial fan and a centrifugal fan.

The heat exchanger 30 is a portion that generates the refrigerant W. FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional perspective view showing the heat exchanger 30. The heat exchanger 30 includes a flow channel 31, a first lid 32, and a second lid 33, as shown in FIG. 5.

The flow channel 31 includes a plurality of tubular pipes 31a extending in one direction. In the present embodiment, the one direction in which the pipes 31a extend is, for example, perpendicular to the rotational axis direction DR. The pipes 31a are each open at the opposite ends thereof in the one direction in which the pipe 31a extends. The pipes 31a each have, for example, a circular cross-sectional shape perpendicular to the one direction in which the pipe 31a extends. In the following description, the one direction in which the pipes 31a extend is called an "extension direction DE" and drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis DE in the drawings. The first region F1 and the second region F2 described above are separate with respect to the axis of rotation R from each other in the extension direction DE perpendicular to the rotational axis direction DR.

In the present embodiment, the flow channel 31 is formed by layering a plurality of layers, which are each formed of a plurality of pipes 31a arranged in the rotational axis direction DR, on each other in the direction perpendicular both to the rotational axis direction DR and the extension direction DE. In the following description, the direction perpendicular both to the rotational axis direction DR and the extension direction DE is called a "thickness direction DT" and drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis DT in the drawings. In the present embodiment, the dimension of the flow channel 31 in the thickness direction DT is, for example, smaller than the dimension of the flow channel 31 in the rotational axis direction DR or is the smallest of the dimensions of the flow channel 31 in the directions perpendicular to the extension direction DE.

The first lid 32 is coupled to an end of the flow channel 31 that is the end on one side in the extension direction DE (+DE side). The first lid 32 has the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped box elongated in the rotational axis direction DR. One end of each of the pipes 31a in the extension direction DE is open in the first lid 32. A partition 32a is provided in the first lid 32, as shown in FIG. 3. The partition

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32a partitions the interior of the first lid 32 into a first space S1 and a second space S2 disposed side by side in the rotational axis direction DR. In FIG. 3, the first space S1 is located on the right of the second space S2 (+DR side).

A communication hole 32b, which allows the first space S1 to be continuous with the interior of the circulation duct 26, is formed in the first lid 32. A communication hole 32c, which allows the second space S2 to be continuous with the interior of the circulation duct 25, is formed in the first lid 32.

The second lid 33 is coupled to an end of the flow channel 31 that is the end on the other side in the extension direction DE (-DE side), that is, the end opposite the end to which the first lid 32 is coupled to the flow channel 31. The second lid 33 has the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped box elongated in the rotational axis direction DR, as shown in FIG. 5. The other end of each of the pipes 31a in the extension direction DE is open in the second lid 33. The interior of the second lid 33 is not partitioned, unlike in the first lid 32. The interior of the second lid 33 is continuous with the first space S1 and the second space S2 in the first lid 32 via the interior of the pipes 31a of the flow channel 31. The second lid 33 is coupled to the refrigerant sender 50. The heat exchanger 30 is thus coupled to the refrigerant sender 50. In FIG. 5, a wall of the second lid 33 that is the wall located on the other side in the extension direction DE is omitted.

The circulation duct 26 is a duct disposed on one side of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 in the rotational axis direction DR (+DR side), as shown in FIG. 3. The circulation duct 26 has an inlet that is located on the other side in the rotational axis direction DR (-DR side) and is open toward a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2. The circulation duct 26 has an outlet continuous with the communication hole 32b in the first lid 32.

The circulation duct 25 is a duct disposed on the other side of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 in the rotational axis direction DR (-DR side). The circulation duct 25 has an outlet that is located on the one side in the rotational axis direction DR (+DR side) and is open toward a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2. The circulation duct 25 has an inlet continuous with the communication hole 32c in the first lid 32.

The heater 22 includes a heating main body 22a. The heating main body 22a is disposed in the circulation duct 25. The heating main body 22a is disposed on the other side, in the rotational axis direction DR (-DR side), of a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2. The heating main body 22a is, for example, an electric heater. The heating main body 22a heats the atmosphere (air) in the circulation duct 25. In the present embodiment, the heater 22 includes the second air blower 23.

The second air blower 23 is disposed in the circulation duct 26. The second air blower 23 is disposed on the one side, in the rotational axis direction DR (+DR side), of a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2. The second air blower 23 is, for example, a centrifugal fan. The second air blower 23 discharges air sucked from the other side in the rotational axis direction DR (-DR side) via an exhaust port 23a toward the other side in the extension direction DE (-DE side). The exhaust port 23a is open toward the communication hole 32b in the first lid 32. The second air blower 23 delivers the air into the first space S1 via the communication hole 32b.

The air discharged from the second air blower **23** into the first space **S1** is the air having been sucked from the other side of the second air blower **23** in the rotational axis direction **DR** ($-DR$ side) via the inlet of the circulation duct and having passed through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2**. That is, the second air blower **23** causes the air to pass through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2**, which differs from the first region **F1**, and delivers the air to the heat exchanger **30**. In the present embodiment, the air before passing through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2** has flowed through the interior of the circulation duct **25**. The heating main body **22a** therefore heats the air before passing through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2**.

As described above, in the present embodiment, the heater **22** heats a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2** with the aid of the second air blower **23**, which delivers the air heated by the heating main body **22a** to a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2**. The second air blower **23** thus delivers air that passes through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion heated by the heater **22** and air around the heated portion to the heat exchanger **30**.

The air having flowed from the second air blower **23** into the heat exchanger **30** via the first space **S1** passes through the pipes **31a** continuous with the first space **S1** out of the plurality of pipes **31a** and flows into the second lid **33**. The air having flowed into the second lid **33** passes through the pipes **31a** continuous with the second space **S2** out of the plurality of pipes **31a**, flows into the second space **S2**, and flows into the circulation duct **25** via the communication hole **32c**. The air having flowed into the circulation duct **25** is heated by the heating main body **22a**, passes through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2** again, flows into the second circulation duct **26**, and is sucked by the second air blower **23**.

As described above, in the present embodiment, the refrigerant generator **20** has a circulation path **27**, through which the air discharged from the second air blower **23** circulates. The circulation path **27** is formed of at least the circulation ducts **25** and **26** and the heat exchanger **30**. The circulation path **27** passes through the heating main body **22a**, the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40**, and the heat exchanger **30**. The circulation path **27** is substantially sealed although small gaps are provided between the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** and the circulation ducts **25**, **26**, and entry of air outside the circulation path **27** into the circulation path **27** is therefore suppressed. In the following description, the air discharged from the second air blower **23** and circulating through the circulation path **27** is called air **AR2**.

The cooling duct **21** is a duct having an inlet disposed on the one side, in the rotational axis direction **DR** ($+DR$ side), of a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the first region **F1**. Air flowing into the cooling duct **21** is the air **AR1** having been discharged from the first air blower **60** and having passed through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the first region **F1**. The cooling duct **21** extends from a region on the one side

of a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the first region **F1** toward the heat exchanger **30**.

The cooling duct **21** includes a cooling passage **21a**, which extends in the rotational axis direction **DR**. The flow channel **31** of the heat exchanger **30** is so disposed in the cooling passage **21a** as to pass thereacross in the extension direction **DE**. The flow channel **31** is thus disposed in the cooling passage **21a**. The air **AR1** passing through the cooling passage **21a** is sprayed onto the outer surface of the flow channel **31** and passes by the flow channel **31** in the rotational axis direction **DR**. The flow channel **31** is thus cooled by the air **AR1**. That is, the heat exchanger **30** is cooled by the air **AR1** having been discharged from the first air blower **60** and having passed through the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40**. In FIG. 3, the air **AR1** in the cooling passage **21a** passes by the flow channel **31** from right to left. The cooling passage **21a** has an open end facing the other side in the rotational axis direction **DR** ($-DR$ side). The opening of the cooling passage **21a** is, for example, an outlet of the cooling duct **21**.

When the air **AR1** is delivered from the first air blower **60** to a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the first region **F1**, water vapor contained in the air **AR1** is absorbed by a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the first region **F1**. A portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion having absorbed the water vapor moves from the first region **F1** to the second region **F2** when the motor **24** rotates the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40**. The air **AR2** heated by the heating main body **22a** and therefore having a relatively high temperature then passes through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the second region **F2**. The moisture absorbed by the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** thus vaporizes and is discharged into the air **AR2**.

The air **AR2** having passed through the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** and therefore containing the water vapor absorbed from the air **AR1** is delivered by the second air blower **23** to the heat exchanger **30**. The air **AR2** having flowed via the first space **S1** into the heat exchanger **30** flows through the flow channel **31**. In more detail, the air **AR2** flows through part of the pipes **31a** of the flow channel **31**. The flow channel **31** is externally cooled by the air **AR1** flowing along the rotational axis direction **DR** through the cooling passage **21a** of the cooling duct **21**.

When the flow channel **31** is cooled, the air **AR2** flowing through part of the pipes **31a** and having a relatively high temperature is cooled, so that the water vapor contained in the air **AR2** condenses into liquid water, that is, the refrigerant **W**. The heat exchanger **30**, when cooled, thus generates the refrigerant **W** from the air **AR2** having flowed into the heat exchanger **30**.

In the present embodiment, the refrigerant sender **50** is formed of a porous member and sends the refrigerant **W** based on capillarity. Examples of the material of the refrigerant sender **50** may include polypropylene, cotton, and porous metal. The material of the refrigerant sender **50** preferably allows the refrigerant sender **50** to provide relatively large surface tension. The refrigerant sender **50** includes a first catcher **51**, a second catcher **52**, a third catcher **53**, and a connector **54**, as shown in FIG. 5.

The first catcher **51** is fixed to an edge portion of an inner surface of the first lid **32** that is the inner surface facing the one side in the extension direction **DE** ($+DE$ side). The first catcher **51** has a thin-band-like shape and is formed in a

rectangular-frame-like shape extending along the edge portion of the first lid **32**. The second catcher **52** is fixed to an edge portion of an inner surface of the second lid **33** that is the inner surface facing the other side in the extension direction DE ($-DE$ side). The second catcher **52** has a thin-band-like shape and is formed in a rectangular-frame-like shape extending along the edge portion of the second lid **33**.

The third catcher **53** extends from the first catcher **51**, passes through a pipe **31a**, and reaches the second catcher **52**, so that the third catcher **53** couples the first catcher **51** to the second catcher **52**. The third catcher **53** has a thin-band-like shape extending in the extension direction DE. In the present embodiment, the third catcher **53** is disposed in one of the plurality of pipes **31a**, as shown in FIG. **5**, but not necessarily. The third catcher **53** may be provided in each of part of the plurality of pipes **31a** or may be provided in each of the plurality of pipes **31a**. When the third catcher **53** is provided in each of part of the plurality of pipes **31a**, the third catchers **53** may be provided in two or more pipes **31a**.

The connector **54** is a portion that couples the refrigerant generator **20** to the cooling target. In the present embodiment, the connector **54** is coupled to the second catcher **52**, extends from the interior of the second lid **33**, passes through the wall of the second lid **33**, and protrudes out of the second lid **33**. The connector **54**, which protrudes out of the second lid **33**, extends to the light modulation unit **4G**, which is part of the cooling target, as shown in FIG. **6**. FIG. **6** is a perspective view showing the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** and the light combining system **5**. The connector **54** has a thin-band-like shape. The width of the connector **54** is, for example, greater than the width of the first catcher **51**, the width of the second catcher **52**, and the width of the third catcher **53**.

The light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, which form the cooling target in the present embodiment, will next be described in more detail. In the following description, an upward/downward direction Z , with the upper side thereof being the positive side and the lower side thereof being the negative side, is drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis Z in the drawings. The direction parallel to an optical axis AX of a projection lens of the projection optical apparatus **6** that is the projection lens closest to the light exiting side, that is, the direction parallel to the projection direction of the projection optical apparatus **6** is called an "optical axis direction X " and drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis X in the drawings. The optical axis direction X is perpendicular to the upward/downward direction Z . The direction perpendicular both to the optical axis direction X and the upward/downward direction Z is called a "width direction Y " and drawn as appropriate in the form of an axis Y in the drawings.

The upward/downward direction Z and the upper and lower sides thereof are merely names for describing the relative positional relationship among the portions of the projector, and the actual arrangement and other factors of the portions may differ from the arrangement and other factors indicated by the names. The present embodiment will be described with reference to the case where the upward/downward direction Z coincides with the vertical direction.

The light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, which form the cooling target, are so disposed as to surround the light combining system **5**, as shown in FIG. **6**. The light modulation units **4R** and **4B** are so disposed on the opposite sides of the light combining system **5** as to sandwich the light combining system. **5** in the width direction Y . The light modulation units **4R** and **4B** are disposed symmetrically

with respect to the width direction Y . The light modulation unit **4G** is disposed on the light incident side of the light combining system **5** in the optical axis direction X ($-X$ side). The attitude of the light modulation unit **4G** is the attitude of the light modulation unit **4R** but rotated counterclockwise by 90° when viewed from the above.

In the light modulation unit **4R**, the direction of the light passing through the light modulator **4RP** coincides with the width direction Y . In the light modulation unit **4R**, the positive side ($+Y$ side) in the width direction Y is the light incident side of the light modulator **4RP** that is the side on which the light is incident, and the negative side ($-Y$ side) in the width direction Y is the light exiting side of the light modulator **4RP** that is the side via which the light exits.

In the light modulation unit **4G**, the direction of the light passing through the light modulator **4GP** coincides with the optical axis direction X . In the light modulation unit **4G**, the negative side ($-X$ side) in the optical axis direction X is the light incident side of the light modulator **4GP** that is the side on which the light is incident, and the positive side ($+X$ side) in the optical axis direction X is the light exiting side of the light modulator **4GP** that is the side via which the light exits.

In the light modulation unit **4B**, the direction of the light passing through the light modulator **4BP** coincides with the width direction Y . In the light modulation unit **4B**, the negative side ($-Y$ side) in the width direction Y is the light incident side of the light modulator **4BP** that is the side on which the light is incident, and the positive side ($+Y$ side) in the width direction Y is the light exiting side of the light modulator **4BP** that is the side via which the light exits.

The light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** have the same shape although they are disposed in different positions and take different attitudes, and so do cooling facilitators **70**, which will be described later and are provided in the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**. Therefore, in the following description, only the light modulation unit **4G** and the cooling facilitator **70** provided in the light modulation unit **4G** will be representatively described below in some cases unless otherwise specified.

The light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** include holding frames **80**, which hold the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP**. The holding frames **80** in the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** have the same shape although they are disposed in different positions and take different attitudes in accordance with the positions where the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** are disposed and the attitudes taken by the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**.

The holding frame **80** provided in the light modulation unit **4G** has a shape that is flat in the optical axis direction X , in which light passes through the light modulator **4GP**, and elongated in the upward/downward direction Z . The holding frame **80** includes a frame main body **81**, an extending part (cooled part) **82**, and supports **83**. The frame main body **81** is a portion that holds the light modulator **4GP**. The frame main body **81** has a rectangular frame-like shape having a through hole **81a**, which passes through the frame main body **81** in the optical axis direction X . The light modulator **4GP** is fit into the through hole **81a**. The light modulator **4GP** is therefore held by the holding frame **80** with the outer circumferential portion of the light modulator **4GP** held by the frame main body **81**.

The extending part **82** is a portion extending from the frame main body **81**. In the present embodiment, the extending part **82** extends upward from a portion of the upper end of the frame main body **81** that is the portion facing the light exiting side ($+X$ side). The extending part **82** is disposed in a position shifted from the light modulator **4GP** upward

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(toward +Z side) P in the vertical direction (axis-Z direction). The dimension of the extending part **82** in the optical axis direction X is smaller than the dimension of the frame main body **81** in the optical axis direction X. In the present embodiment, the extending part **82** is a cooled part to which the refrigerant W is sent from the refrigerant sender **50**. That is, the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B** corresponding to the cooling target in the present embodiment include the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP** corresponding to the cooling target main body and the extending parts **82** corresponding to the cooled part.

The extending part **82** is thermally coupled to the light modulator **4GP**, which is part of the cooling target main body, via the frame main body **81**. In the present specification, a sentence “certain targets are thermally coupled to each other” may mean that the certain targets may be coupled to each other in a state in which heat is movable therebetween. That is, heat from the light modulator **4GP** is movable to the extending part **82** via the frame main body **81**.

The extending part **82** has a first part **82a**, a second part **82b**, and a third part **82c**. The first part **82a**, the second part **82b**, and the third part **82c** are concatenated with each other from below to above in the presented order. The first part **82a**, the second part **82b**, and the third part **82c** each have the shape of a rectangular parallelepiped elongated in the width direction Y perpendicular both to the upward/downward direction Z and the optical axis direction X, along which the light passes through the light modulator **4GP**.

The dimension of the first part **82a** in the width direction Y is equal to the dimension of the frame main body **81** in the width direction Y. The dimension of the second part **82b** in the width direction Y is smaller than the dimension of the first part **82a** in the width direction Y. The dimension of the third part **82c** in the width direction Y is greater than the dimensions of the first part **82a** and the second part **82b** in the width direction Y. The third part **82c** protrudes beyond the second part **82b** on the opposite sides in the width direction Y.

The supports **83** protrude from the first part **82a** of the extending part **82** toward the light incident side (-X side). The supports **83** form a pair of supports **83** with a gap therebetween in the width direction Y. The lower ends of the supports **83** are coupled to the upper surface of the frame main body **81**. The supports **83** support a refrigerant holder **71** and a fixing member **72**, which will be described later, from below.

In the present embodiment, the holding frames **80** are made of metal. The material of the holding frames **80** contain, for example, aluminum. In the present embodiment, the thermal conductivity of the holding frames **80** is higher than the thermal conductivity of the refrigerant sender **50**. The thermal conductivity of the holding frames **80** is, for example, greater than or equal to 80 [W/(m·K)]. The material of the holding frames **80** is not limited to a specific material and may contain copper or any other metal.

In the present embodiment, the projector **1** further includes cooling facilitators **70** provided in the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, which form the cooling target. The cooling facilitators **70** each include a refrigerant holder **71** and a fixing member **72**. The refrigerant holder **71** is formed of a porous member that holds the refrigerant W. Examples of the material of the refrigerant holder **71** may include polypropylene, cotton, and porous metal. The material of the refrigerant holder **71** can, for example, be the same material of the refrigerant sender **50**. The material of

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the refrigerant holder **71** preferably allows the refrigerant holder **71** to provide relatively large surface tension.

The refrigerant holders **71** are provided on surfaces of the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part. In the present embodiment, the refrigerant holders **71** are so provided as to extend along surfaces of the extending parts **82** that are the surfaces on the opposite sides in the direction in which the light passes through the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP** and **4BP**. FIG. 7 shows the refrigerant holders **71**. A refrigerant holder **71R** provided in the light modulation unit **4R**, a refrigerant holder **71G** provided in the light modulation unit **4G**, and a refrigerant holder **71B** provided in the light modulation unit **4B** have the same shape, as shown in FIG. 7. The shape of the refrigerant holder **71G** will be representatively described below.

The refrigerant holder **71G** includes a main body **71a** and a pair of folded parts **71d**. The main body **71a** is provided on a surface of the extending part **82** that is the surface facing the light incident side (-X side). The main body **71a** includes a narrow part **71b** and a wide part **71c**.

In the present embodiment, the narrow part **71b** has a rectangular shape. The narrow part **71b** is so provided as to extend along a surface of the first part **82a** of the extending part **82** that is the surface facing the light incident side (-X side) and a surface of the second part **82b** of the extending part **82** that is the surface facing the light incident side. The narrow part **71b** covers a portion of the light-incident-side surface of the first part **82a** that is a central portion in the width direction Y and the entire light incident side of the second part **82b**.

In the present embodiment, the wide part **71c** has a rectangular shape. The wide part **71c** is continuous with the upper side of the narrow part **71b**. The wide part **71c** protrudes beyond the narrow part **71b** on the opposite sides in the width direction Y. The wide part **71c** is provided on the light-incident-side surface (-X-side surface) of the third part **82c** of the extending part **82**. The wide part **71c** covers the entire light-incident-side surface of the third part **82c**.

The pair of folded parts **71d** are provided at portions of the upper end of the wide part **71c** that are opposite end portions in the width direction Y. The pair of folded parts **71d** extend via the upper side of the extending part **82** and are folded back toward the light exiting side (+X side). The pair of folded parts **71d** are so provided as to extend along the upper surface of the third part **82c** of the extending part **82** and the light-exiting-side surface of the third part **82c**. The pair of folded parts **71d** cover portions of the upper side surface of the third part **82c** that are opposite end portions in the width direction Y and portions of the light-exiting-side surface of the third part **82c** that are opposite end portions in the width direction Y.

Out of the refrigerant holders **71** provided in the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, the refrigerant holder **71G** provided in the light modulation unit **4G** is coupled to the refrigerant sender **50**, as shown in FIG. 7. In more detail, the connector **54** of the refrigerant sender **50** is coupled to the lower end of the wide part **71c** of the refrigerant holder **71G**. On the other hand, the connector **54** is not coupled to the refrigerant holder **71B** attached to the light modulation unit **4B** or the refrigerant holder **71R** attached to the light modulation unit **4R**.

In the present embodiment, the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** are provided on the opposite sides of the refrigerant holder **71G** attached to the light modulation unit **4G** and link the refrigerant holder **71B** attached to the light modulation unit **4B** and the refrigerant holder **71R** attached to the light

modulation unit 4R to the refrigerant holder 71G. The linkage parts 73a and 73b are each formed of a porous member.

The linkage part 73a links the refrigerant holder 71G attached to the light modulation unit 4G to the refrigerant holder 71B attached to the light modulation unit 4B. In more detail, the linkage part 73a links the wide part 71c of the refrigerant holder 71G to the wide part 71c of the refrigerant holder 71B. The refrigerant holder 71B is thus coupled to the connector 54 of the refrigerant sender 50 via the refrigerant holder 71G. The linkage part 73a is provided with a coating 74, with which the linkage part 73a is coated, as shown in FIG. 6. The coating 74 is, for example, a film made of resin.

The linkage part 73b links the refrigerant holder 71G attached to the light modulation unit 4G to the refrigerant holder 71R attached to the light modulation unit 4R, as shown in FIG. 7. In more detail, the linkage part 73b links the wide part 71c of the refrigerant holder 71G to the wide part 71c of the refrigerant holder 71R. The refrigerant holder 71R is thus coupled to the connector 54 of the refrigerant sender 50 via the refrigerant holder 71G. Although not shown, the linkage part 73b is similarly provided with a coating 74, as is the linkage part 73a.

The fixing members 72 are members that fix the refrigerant holder 71, as shown in FIG. 6. The fixing members 72 provided in the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B have the same shape, and the fixing member 72 that fixes the refrigerant holder 71G provided in the light modulation unit 4G will be therefore representatively described in the following description.

The fixing member 72 is a plate-shaped member. The fixing member 72 is made, for example, of metal. The fixing member 72 includes a frame part 72a and attachment parts 72b and 72c. The frame part 72a is located on the light incident side (-X side) of the main body 71a of the refrigerant holder 71. The frame part 72a covers an outer edge portion of the main body 71a. The frame part 72a has the same outer shape as that of the main body 71a.

The main body 71a and the frame part 72b of the refrigerant holder 71 are layered on the extending part 82 in the direction in which the light passes through the light modulation unit 4G (optical axis direction X). In the following description, the direction in which the main body 71a and the frame part 72a of the refrigerant holder 71 are layered on the extending part 82 is simply called a "layering direction." The fixing member 72 fixes the main body 71a of the refrigerant holder 71 in such a way that the frame part 72a and the extending part 82, which is the cooled part, sandwich the main body 71a in the layering direction (optical axis direction X).

In the present embodiment, at least part of the refrigerant holder 71 is exposed when viewed along the layering direction from the side facing the fixing member 72 (light incident side). In more detail, a portion of the main body 71a of the refrigerant holder 71 that is the portion inside the frame part 72a is exposed when viewed along the layering direction from the side facing the fixing member 72.

The attachment parts 72b are provided at portions of a lower portion of the frame part 72a that are opposite end portions in the width direction Y. The attachment parts 72c are provided at portions of an upper portion of the frame part 72a that are opposite end portions in the width direction Y. The attachment parts 72b and 72c protrude from the frame part 72a toward the light exiting side (+X side). The attachment parts 72b engage with protrusions provided at the side surfaces of the second part 82b of the holding frame 80. The attachment parts 72c engage with protrusions provided at the

side surfaces of the third part 82c of the holding frame 80. The fixing member 72 is thus fixed to the holding frame 80. Front end portions of the attachment parts 72c are bent and form claw-shaped parts 72d, which press the pair of folded parts 71d from the light exiting side. FIG. 6 shows the claw-shaped parts 72d of the fixing member 72 provided in the light modulation unit 4R.

The light modulation unit 4R includes a wiring line 4RW electrically coupled to the light modulator 4RP. The light modulation unit 4G includes a wiring line 4GW electrically coupled to the light modulator 4GP. The light modulation unit 4B includes a wiring line 4BW electrically coupled to the light modulator 4BP. The wiring lines 4RW, 4GW, and 4BW are located on the light exiting side of the extending part 82, extend in the upward/downward direction Z, and are drawn upward beyond the extending part 82. The wiring lines 4RW, 4GW, and 4BW are so disposed as to face a surface of the light-exiting-side surface of the extending part 82 of the holding frames 80 that is the surface between the pair of folded parts 71d.

The air AR1 from the first air blower 60 is delivered from below to above to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target. The air AR1 delivered to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B travels via the frame main bodies 81 and the light modulators 4RP, 4GP and 4BP and is then delivered to the extending parts 82, the refrigerant holders 71, and the fixing members 72. That is, in the direction in which the air AR1 delivered from the first air blower 60 to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B flows, the extending parts 82, which form the cooled part, are disposed in positions downstream of the light modulators 4RP, 4GP and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body.

The refrigerant W generated by the refrigerant generator 20 is sent to the refrigerant holder 71G via the connector 54 of the refrigerant sender 50. The refrigerant W sent to the refrigerant holder 71G is sent to the refrigerant holder 71B via the linkage part 73a and to the refrigerant holder 71R via the linkage part 73b. The refrigerant W generated by the refrigerant generator 20 is thus sent to the three light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B. The refrigerant W sent to and held by the refrigerant holders 71 then vaporizes to cool the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target. In more detail, the refrigerant W held by the refrigerant holders 71 vaporizes to cool the extending parts 82, which form the cooled part, so that the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which are thermally coupled to the frame main bodies 81 and the extending parts 82 via the frame main bodies 81, are cooled. The cooler 10 can thus cool the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target.

According to the present embodiment, the cooler 10 can cool the cooling target by sending the refrigerant W generated by the refrigerant generator 20 to the cooling target via the refrigerant sender 50 and using vaporization of the refrigerant W, which is an endothermic reaction, to draw heat from the cooling target. The cooling based on the vaporization of the refrigerant W can actively draw heat from the cooling target and therefore provides excellent cooling performance as compared with air cooling and liquid cooling, in which a cooling target is cooled based merely on heat transfer to a refrigerant. Therefore, to provide the same cooling performance as that provided by air cooling or liquid cooling, the overall size of the cooler 10 is readily reduced as compared with the size required by air cooling or liquid cooling.

Further, in the cooling based on the vaporization of the refrigerant W, the cooling performance can be improved by

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an increase in the surface area where the refrigerant W that vaporizes comes into contact with the cooling target. The increase in the cooling performance of the cooler 10 therefore causes no increase in noise produced by the cooler 10. The present embodiment therefore provides a projector 1 including a cooler 10 that excels in cooling performance, has a compact size, and excels in quietness.

According to the present embodiment, in which the refrigerant generator 20 can generate the refrigerant W, a user's convenience can be improved because the user does not need to replenish the refrigerant W. Further, since the refrigerant generator 20 can perform adjustment in such a way that it generates the refrigerant W by a necessary amount as required, there is no need for storage of the refrigerant W, for example, in a storage tank, whereby the weight of the projector 1 can be reduced.

According to the present embodiment, the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 can absorb water vapor contained in the air AR1 delivered from the first air blower 60, and the moisture absorbed by the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 can be discharged in the form of water vapor into the air AR2 delivered by the second air blower 23. The heat exchanger 30 then allows the moisture discharged in the form of water vapor into the air AR2 to condense into the refrigerant W. Therefore, according to the present embodiment, the refrigerant W can be generated from the atmosphere in the projector 1.

According to the present embodiment, the heat exchanger 30 is cooled by the air AR1 having been discharged from the first air blower 60 and having passed through the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40. No cooling section that cools the heat exchanger 30 therefore needs to be separately provided, whereby an increase in the number of parts of the projector 1 can be suppressed. Further, an increase in noise produced by the projector 1 can be suppressed as compared with a case where an air blower is separately provided as the cooling section that cools the heat exchanger 30.

According to the present embodiment, the first air blower 60 is the cooling air blower that delivers the air AR1 to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target. The air AR1 therefore causes the refrigerant W sent to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B to readily vaporize, whereby the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B can be further cooled. Further, no cooling air blower that cools the cooling target needs to be provided separately from the first air blower 60, whereby an increase in the number of parts of the projector 1 can be suppressed, and an increase in noise produced by the projector 1 can be suppressed.

In the present embodiment, the first air blower 60, which is an intake fan that takes outside air into the projector 1, is used to facilitate the vaporization of the refrigerant W delivered to the cooling target, as described above. The same cooling performance as that provided when no cooler 10 is provided can therefore be provided even when the output of the first air blower 60 is lowered. The noise produced by the first air blower 60 can therefore be reduced by lowering the output of the first air blower 60, which is an intake fan, whereby the quietness of the projector 1 can be further improved.

When the refrigerant W delivered to the cooling target vaporizes, the refrigerant W having vaporized increases the humidity of the air around the cooling target to a relatively large value. The relatively high humidity air could therefore affect the cooling target and cause a problem. Specifically, when the cooling target is an optical element, the refrigerant W having vaporized at the cooling target could obstruct the

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progress of the light to be incident on the optical element or the light that exits out of the optical element. The reliability of the projector could thus lower.

In contrast, according to the present embodiment, in the flowing direction of the air AR1 delivered from the first air blower 60 to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target, the extending parts 82, which form the cooled part, to which the refrigerant W is sent, is disposed in positions downstream of the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body. The flow of the air AR1 therefore causes the refrigerant W having vaporized at the extending parts 82 to flow away from the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body. An increase in the humidity of the air around the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP due to the refrigerant W having vaporized can thus be suppressed. The obstruction of the progress of the light to be incident on the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP or the light that exits out of the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP can therefore be suppressed. The present embodiment can thus suppress a problem with the cooling target main body due to the refrigerant W having vaporized, whereby the reliability of the projector 1 can be improved.

According to the present embodiment, in particular, since the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B form the cooling target, and the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP form the cooling target main body. Therefore, a problem with the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP can be suppressed, and blur and other problems with a color image (color video image) outputted from the projector 1 can be suppressed.

The lower the temperature of the air AR1 delivered to the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body, the easier the cooling of the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP. In the present embodiment, the air AR1 is delivered to the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body, before the air AR1 is delivered to the extending parts 82, which form the cooled part. The air AR1 having a relatively low temperature can thus be delivered to the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP. The light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body, are thus more likely to be cooled.

The air AR1 delivered to the extending parts 82 is the air Ar1 having traveled via the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP and therefore has a temperature increased by a value corresponding to the amount of heat absorbed from the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP. Delivering the air AR1 having a relatively high temperature to the extending parts 82 can still sufficiently facilitate vaporization of the refrigerant W sent to the extending parts 82. The air AR1 having traveled via the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP can therefore still, when delivered to the extending parts 82, cause the refrigerant W to vaporize and preferably cool the extending parts 82. Delivering the air AR1 to the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B and the extending parts 82 in the presented order can therefore efficiently cool the light modulation units 4R, 4G, and 4B, which form the cooling target.

According to the present embodiment, the holding frames 80, which hold the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body, are made of metal. The heat from the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP is therefore likely to transfer to the holding frames 80. Cooling the extending parts 82, which form the cooled part, out of the holding frames 80 based on the vaporization of the refrigerant W can therefore more preferably cool the light modulators 4RP, 4GP, and 4BP, which form the cooling target main body.

According to the present embodiment, the material of the holding frames **80** contains aluminum. The holding frames **80** therefore tend to have relatively high thermal conductivity. The heat from the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP** is therefore likely to transfer to the holding frames **80**. Cooling the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part, out of the holding frames **80** based on the vaporization of the refrigerant **W** can therefore more preferably cool the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP**, which form the cooling target main body.

According to the present embodiment, the thermal conductivity of the holding frames **80** is higher than the thermal conductivity of the refrigerant sender **50**. The holding frames **80** therefore tend to have relatively high thermal conductivity. The heat from the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP** is therefore likely to transfer to the holding frames **80**. Cooling the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part, out of the holding frames **80** based on the vaporization of the refrigerant **W** can therefore more preferably cool the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP**, which form the cooling target main body.

According to the present embodiment, the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part, are disposed vertically above the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP**, which form the cooling target main body. The refrigerant **W** having vaporized is likely to move upward in the vertical direction. Therefore, for example, even when the first air blower **60** is not in operation, the refrigerant **W** having vaporized at the extending parts **82** moves upward in the vertical direction, that is, in the direction away from the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP**. Therefore, even when the first air blower **60** is not in operation, movement of the refrigerant **W** having vaporized at the extending parts **82** to the region around the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP** can be suppressed, whereby malfunction of the light modulators **4RP**, **4GP**, and **4BP** can be suppressed.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant holders **71**, which hold the refrigerant **W**, are provided on the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part. The refrigerant holders **71** can therefore hold the refrigerant **W** sent to the extending parts **82** at the extending parts **82** until the refrigerant **W** vaporizes. The generated refrigerant **W** is therefore readily used with no waste, whereby the cooling performance of the cooler **10** can be further improved.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant holders **71** are attached to the surfaces of the extending parts **82**, which form the cooled part, and the refrigerant holders **71** are each formed of a porous member. At least part of each of the refrigerant holders **71** is exposed when viewed along the layering direction from the side facing the refrigerant holder **71**. The refrigerant **W** therefore readily vaporizes via the exposed portion of each of the refrigerant holders **71**, whereby the cooling performance of the cooler **10** can be further improved. Further, the refrigerant holders **71**, which are each formed of a porous member, readily uniformly distribute the refrigerant **W** across the surface of the cooled part, on which the refrigerant holders **71** are provided, based on capillarity, whereby the cooling target is readily further cooled.

For example, when the refrigerant holders **71** are fixed to the extending parts **82** with an adhesive, the pores in the refrigerant holders **71**, which are each formed of a porous member, are closed in some cases with the adhesive absorbed by the refrigerant holders **71**. The refrigerant holders **71** are therefore unlikely to absorb or hold the refrigerant **W** in some cases.

In contrast, according to the present embodiment, the fixing members **72** are so provided as to fix the refrigerant holders **71** in such a way that the fixing members **72** and the extending parts **82** sandwich the refrigerant holders **71**. The refrigerant holders **71** can therefore be fixed to the extending parts **82** with use of no adhesive. The situation in which the refrigerant holders **71** are unlikely to hold the refrigerant **W** can therefore be suppressed. Further, in the present embodiment, the fixing members **72** are made of metal. The fixing members **72** therefore have relatively high thermal conductivity and are hence likely to be cooled. The air **AR1** from the first air blower **60** and the vaporization of the refrigerant **W** therefore readily lower the temperature of the fixing members **72**, whereby the cooled part, which is in contact with fixing members **72**, is readily further cooled.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant holders **71** are provided in the plurality of light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, and the linkage part **73a**, which links the two refrigerant holders **71G** and **71B** to each other, the linkage part **73b**, which links the two refrigerant holders **71G** and **71R** to each other, are provided. Coupling the refrigerant sender **50** to one of the refrigerant holders **71** therefore allows the refrigerant **W** to be sent to the other refrigerant holders **71**. The routing of the refrigerant sender **50** in the projector **1** can therefore be simplified.

According to the present embodiment, the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** are provided with the respective coatings **74**, with which the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** are coated. A situation in which the refrigerant **W** that moves along the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** vaporizes via the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** can therefore be suppressed. Therefore, a situation in which the refrigerant **W** vaporizes without contributing to the cooling of the light modulation units **4R**, **4G**, and **4B**, which form the cooling target, can be suppressed, whereby waste of the generated refrigerant **W** can be suppressed.

In the present embodiment, the connector **54** may also be coated, as are the linkage parts **73a** and **73b**. The configuration described above can suppress vaporization of the refrigerant **W** being sent to the cooling target. Therefore, the refrigerant **W** can be efficiently sent to the cooling target, and waste of the generated refrigerant **W** can be further suppressed. The circumference of each of the connector **54** and the linkage parts **73a** and **73b** may instead be covered, for example, with a tube. A coating treatment that suppresses the vaporization may still instead be performed on the surface of each of the connector **54** and the linkage parts **73a** and **73b**.

Further, for example, in the refrigerant generator **20**, when the humidity of the air **AR2** delivered from the second air blower **23** to the heat exchanger **30** is relatively low, cooling the heat exchanger **30** is unlikely to allow generation of the refrigerant **W** in some cases. For example, when air or any other substance outside the projector **1** mixes with the air **AR2** delivered to the heat exchanger **30**, the humidity of the air **AR2** lowers in some cases.

In contrast, according to the present embodiment, the refrigerant generator **20** has the circulation path **27**, through which the air **AR2** discharged from the second air blower **23** circulates. Substantially sealing the circulation path **27** can therefore suppress entry of air outside the projector **1** into the circulation path **27**, whereby the humidity of the air **AR2** delivered to the heat exchanger **30** can be readily maintained relatively high. Cooling the heat exchanger **30** therefore allows the refrigerant **W** to be preferably generated.

According to the present embodiment, the heater **22** includes the heating main body **22a**, which heats the air before passing through a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member **40** that is the portion located in the

second region F2, and the second air blower 23. The heater 22, in which the second air blower 23 delivers the air AR2 to the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40, can therefore heat a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2. The heater 22 can therefore heat the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 even in the configuration in which the heating main body 22a is located in a position separate from the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40. The heater 22 can therefore be configured with improved flexibility.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant generator 20 includes the motor 24, which rotates the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40. The moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 can therefore be stably rotated at a fixed speed. Therefore, a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the first region F1 can preferably absorb water vapor from the air AR1, and a portion of the moisture absorbing/discharging member 40 that is the portion located in the second region F2 can preferably discharge moisture into the air AR2. The refrigerant W can therefore be efficiently generated.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant sender 50 sends the refrigerant W based on capillarity. No pump or any other power source for sending the refrigerant W therefore needs to be separately provided. An increase in the number of parts of the projector 1 can therefore be suppressed, whereby the size and weight of the projector 1 are each readily reduced by a greater amount.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant sender 50 includes the connector 54, which is formed of a porous member and couples the refrigerant generator 20 to the cooling target. The connector 54 can therefore absorb the refrigerant W and send the refrigerant W based on capillarity.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant sender 50 includes the second catcher 52 provided in the second lid 33. The second catcher 52 is coupled to the connector 54. The second catcher 52 can therefore absorb the refrigerant W accumulated in the second lid 33 and send the absorbed refrigerant W to the connector 54 based on capillarity. The generated refrigerant W is therefore readily delivered with no waste to the cooling target.

According to the present embodiment, the refrigerant sender 50 includes the first catcher 51, which is provided in the first lid 32, and the third catcher 53, which couples the first catcher 51 to the second catcher 52. The first catcher 51 can therefore absorb the refrigerant W having accumulated in the first lid 32 and send the absorbed refrigerant W to the second catcher 52 via the third catcher 53 based on capillarity. The refrigerant W having accumulated in the first lid 32 can therefore be sent from the second catcher 52 to the connector 54, which can then send the refrigerant W to the cooling target. The generated refrigerant W is therefore readily delivered with no waste to the cooling target.

According to the present embodiment, the third catcher 53 passes through a pipe 31a. The third catcher 53 can therefore absorb the refrigerant W having accumulated in the pipe 31a and send the absorbed refrigerant W to the cooling target via the second catcher 52 and the connector 54. The generated refrigerant W is therefore readily delivered with no waste to the cooling target.

According to the present embodiment, the width of the connector 54 is greater, for example, than the width of the first catcher 51, the width of the second catcher 52, and the width of the third catcher 53. The width of the connector 54

is therefore readily set at a relatively large value, whereby the amount of refrigerant W that can be sent by the connector 54 can be increased. The refrigerant sender 50 therefore readily delivers the refrigerant W to the cooling target, whereby the cooling target is readily further cooled.

On the other hand, the width of the first catcher 51, the width of the second catcher 52, and the width of the third catcher 53 are each readily set at a relatively small value. The amount of refrigerant W held by each of the first catcher 51, the second catcher 52, and the third catcher 53 can therefore be reduced. The amount of refrigerant W held by the first catcher 51, the second catcher 52, and the third catcher 53 and hence left in the heat exchanger 30 can therefore be reduced, whereby the generated refrigerant W is readily delivered with no waste to the cooling target.

In the present embodiment, the following configurations and methods can also be employed.

The cooled part is not necessarily located in a specific position and may be located in any position downstream of the cooling target main body in the flowing direction of the air delivered from the cooling air blower to the cooling target. The cooled part may instead be located below the cooling target main body in the vertical direction. In this case, the air from the cooling air blower is delivered from above to below in the vertical direction. The cooled part may still instead be located on one side of the cooling target main body in the horizontal direction. In this case, the air from the cooling air blower is sent from the other side toward the one side in the horizontal direction. The cooled part does not necessarily have a specific shape.

The cooling target in the embodiment described above is the light modulation units, but not necessarily. The cooling target is not limited to a specific component and may be any component including the cooling target main body and the cooled part. The cooling target may include at least one of the light modulators, the light modulation units, the light source apparatus, a wavelength converter that converts the wavelength of the light outputted from the light source apparatus, a diffuser that diffuses the light outputted from the light source apparatus, and a polarization converter that converts the polarization direction of the light outputted from the light source apparatus. According to the configuration described above, each portion of the projector can be cooled in the same manner described above.

The cooling air blower in the embodiment described above is the first air blower 60 provided in the refrigerant generator 20, but not necessarily. The cooling air blower may be provided separately from the air blowers provided in the refrigerant generator 20. In this case, the air from the cooling air blower is readily sent to the cooling target main body and the cooled part in the presented order irrespective of the arrangement of the refrigerant generator 20 and the cooling target.

The heater is not limited to that in the embodiment described above. The heater may be in contact with the moisture absorbing/discharging member and heat the moisture absorbing/discharging member. In this case, the heater may not heat the air before passing through the moisture absorbing/discharging member.

In the embodiment described above, the description has been made with reference to the case where the present disclosure is applied to a transmission-type projector, and the present disclosure is also applicable to a reflection-type projector. The term "transmission-type" means that the light modulators each including a liquid crystal panel or any other component transmit light. The term "reflection-type" means that the light modulators reflect light. The light modulators

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are each not limited, for example, to a liquid crystal panel and may, for example, be a micromirror-based light modulator.

In the embodiment described above, the projector using the three light modulators has been presented by way of example. The present disclosure is also applicable to a projector using only one light modulator and a projector using four or more light modulators.

The configurations described in the present specification can be combined with each other as appropriate to the extent that the combination causes no contradiction between the combined configurations.

What is claimed is:

1. A projector including a cooling target, the projector comprising:

a light source configured to emit light;

a light modulator configured to modulate the light emitted from the light source in accordance with an image signal;

a projection optical apparatus configured to project the light modulated by the light modulator; and

a cooler configured to cool the cooling target based on transformation of a refrigerant into a gas,

wherein the cooler includes

a refrigerant generator configured to generate the refrigerant,

a refrigerant sender configured to send the generated refrigerant toward the cooling target, and

a cooling air blower configured to deliver air to the cooling target,

the cooling target includes

a cooling target main body, and

a cooled part which is thermally coupled to the cooling target main body and to which the refrigerant is sent from the refrigerant sender, and

the cooled part is disposed on a downstream of the cooling target main body in a flowing direction of the air delivered from the cooling air blower to the cooling target.

2. The projector according to claim 1, further comprising a light modulation unit including the light modulator and a holding frame holding the light modulator,

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wherein the holding frame includes a frame main body holding the light modulator and an extending part extending from the frame main body,

the light modulation unit is the cooling target,

the light modulator is the cooling target main body, and the extending part is the cooled part.

3. The projector according to claim 2,

wherein the holding frame is made of metal.

4. The projector according to claim 3,

wherein a material of the holding frame contains aluminum.

5. The projector according to claim 2,

Wherein a thermal conductivity of the holding frame is higher than a thermal conductivity of the refrigerant sender.

6. The projector according to claim 1,

wherein the cooled part is disposed above the cooling target main body in a vertical direction.

7. The projector according to claim 1,

further comprising a refrigerant holder holding the refrigerant, and

the refrigerant holder is provided at the cooled part.

8. The projector according to claim 7,

wherein the refrigerant holder is attached to a surface of the cooled part and is formed of a porous member, and at least part of the refrigerant holder is exposed when viewed from a refrigerant holder side along a overlapping direction in which the refrigerant holder and the cooled part overlap.

9. The projector according to claim 8,

further comprising a fixing member fixing the refrigerant holder,

the fixing member fixes the refrigerant holder in such a way that the fixing member and the cooled part sandwich the refrigerant holder in the overlapping direction, and

at least part of the refrigerant holder is exposed when viewed from a fixing member side along the overlapping direction.

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